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U.S. Embassy in Warsaw 'Bugged'

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Wire Network Discovered in New Building

Officials Report
Finding No Breach
Of 'Secure Room'

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Security officials have discovered a "bugging" system in the walls of the one-year-old U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, the State Department disclosed today.

Press spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said a wired-microphone system was discovered on Oct. 7 in the glass and reinforced concrete structure which is located in the heart of Poland's capital.

After its discovery, Ambassador John M. Cabot lodged a protest with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the "flagrant violation of the immunity of the embassy's premises," McCloskey said.

Investigation Underway

A full investigation is now being conducted by security officials, McCloskey said, but preliminary work indicated that the "bugging" network was installed during the early stages of construction—in 1961.

The building, one of the most modern in Warsaw, has a basement, a main floor and four additional floors.

McCloskey said that the network did not breach the privacy of the embassy's "secure room" which is used by Americans for classified work.

The Polish Foreign Ministry has denied any knowledge of the installation of such devices, McCloskey said.

Second This Year

This is the second discovery of bugging devices in American embassies in Communist countries this year.

In May, State Department security officers discovered a network of microphones imbedded in the walls of the U. S. Embassy in Moscow.

Those devices were believed to have been installed in 1953 prior to Stalin's death, and were not believed to have been functioning at the time of discovery.

Information was not made available on how many microphones were involved in the Warsaw incident, or whether they were operating. The embassy staff moved into the building in September 1963.

American Supervision

It was constructed by Polish workmen with American officials supervising.

The white concrete and glass building is located at 31 Ujazdowska, near the heart of Warsaw's business center.

Embassy officials in Communist countries are under standing orders always to assume that anything they say is being overheard. Thus classified information is generally written rather than spoken—except in the "secure room."

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